

Milk Regulatory Equity Act Passes House and is Signed by President



Nunes victorious in fight for fairness in milk markets

A bill authored by Congressman Nunes, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act (MREA), was signed into law by President Bush on April 11. The bill makes a number of changes to federal law and resolves serious regulatory challenges faced by dairy farmers and processors in the Western United States.

"The new law will prevent special interests from gaming our nation's dairy programs," said Rep. Nunes.

Under previous law, businesses could escape regulations by building a milk plant in a federally regulated area but not sell milk there. Instead, the plant would sell all of its milk into a state regulated region. Since California cannot regulate out-of-state milk and previous law did not permit the federal regu-

lators to act, these businesses were able to avoid all regulation.

The Congressman added, "In a marketplace where all other dairy farmers and processors are required to comply with either federal or state regulations, this unfair advantage was seriously disrupting the market."

Predatory market behavior was driving out competition, with no positive results for consumers. The MREA eliminates loopholes in the law thereby restoring fairness.

Find out what Rep. Devin Nunes is doing by visiting his website at www.nunes.house.gov

Rep. Nunes attends Resources Committee Water Hearing in Fresno

In his continuing effort to reform the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Rep. Nunes attended a field hearing in April to question a number of Valley water experts on the need for reform.

At the hearing, held at the Fresno Fair Grounds, witnesses described the impact that the CVPIA has had on their industry or community. A number of questions were raised about the effectiveness and impact of the 14 year-old environmental law that radically changed the operation of the Central Valley Project.

"Since 1992, CVPIA has spent more than three-quarters of a billion dollars on environmental restoration efforts with little to no success. The American taxpayers deserve to have an



Congressman Nunes listens on as folks give testimony on the impacts of CVPIA

accurate accounting of how these dollars were spent and what exactly they have done to help restore fish populations," said Rep. Nunes.

In September of last year, Congressman Nunes intro-

duced H.R. 3691 to amend, preserve, or clarify several provisions under the law, some of which include:

- Reserves 800,000 acre-feet of water for environmental restoration but allows for the recapturing of the water related to environ-

mental restoration.

- Maintains current CVPIA obligation to provide firm water supplies to wildlife refuges and to increase supplies over the next ten years.
- Maintains Restoration Fund and surcharges on CVP water and power customers while providing flexibility.
- Prohibits the release of water from Friant Dam for purposes other than flood control or to meet contractual demands.
- Provides for CVPIA payments to be credited against repayment of CVP.
- Replaces obligation to restore anadromous fish with a requirement of participation in the large state effort established by the Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program.